The Transparent Forwarding of LLDP Frames

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- **The exchange of LLDP frames assumes that LLDP peers are connected to the same physical medium.**

- **Devices that transparently forward LLDP frames breaks this assumption.**

- **How many devices ?**

- **Testing was performed on several devices to see if they forward LLDP frames. These devices were found to transparently forward LLDP frames:**

  - **Vendor A 5-port 10/100 Ethernet switch**
  - **Vendor B 5-port 10/100/1000 Ethernet switch**
  - **Vendor C 5 Port 10/100 Ethernet switch**
  - **Vendor D 5 Port 10/100 Router**
  - **Vendor E IP Telephone**

- **The one tested that did not forward LLDP frames was Vendor B's 8-port 10/100/1000 Ethernet switch.**

- At least in this testing there seems to be a class of Ethernet Switch implementations (e.g., limited feature low port count switch, IP telephone 3-port embedded switch) that transparently forward LLDP frames.

- One method of detecting this problem is to uniquely identify your link partner during auto negotiation.

- There are probably other methods of detecting this problem and they should also be explored.

- This could be addressed in the time stamp project if it is approved.